

Message Text

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71

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

ERDA-07 FEA-01 OES-05 ACDA-10 SAB-01 SAM-01 /092 W

----- 015012

R 151408Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 621

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 1874

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR,MNUC, IS, US

SUBJECT: RABIN CABINET STATEMENT ON GOI NUCLEAR POLICY

1. FOLLOWING IS EXTRACT FROM COMMUNIQUE ON MARCH 14 CABINET MEETING DEALING WITH ISRAELI NUCLEAR POLICY.

2. BEGIN TEXT: MINISTER RAPHAEL ASKED THE PRIME MINISTER WHETHER ANY CHANGE HAD OCCURRED IN ISRAEL'S POLICY CONCERNING THE MANUFACTURE OF ATOMIC WEAPONS BY ISRAEL. MINISTER RAPHAEL BASED HIS QUESTION ON RECENT REMARKS ON THE SUBJECT BY KNESSET MEMBER DAYAN, AND ASKED WHETHER KNESSET MEMBER DAYAN'S REMARKS HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY COORDINATED WITH THE PRIME MINISTER.

3. REPLYING, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT MINISTER RAPHAEL'S QUESTION PROVIDED A SUITABLE OPPORTUNITY FOR CLARIFYING DECISIVELY THAT NO CHANGE HAD OCCURRED IN ISRAEL'S POLICY ON THIS SUBJECT. ISRAEL IS NOT A NUCLEAR STATE. ISRAEL WILL NOT BE THE FIRST STATE TO INTRODUCE WEAPONS OF THIS NATURE INTO THE MIDDLE EAST REGION.

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4. THE PRIMEMINISTER MADE IT CLEAR THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO

COORDINATION BETWEEN HIMSELF AND KNESSET MEMBER DAYAN--
ADDING THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD, OF COURSE, NO CONTROL OVER
STATEMENTS BY KNESSET MEMBERS NOR RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR
CONTENTS. END TEXT.

5. RAPHAEL'S QUESTION REFERRED TO DAYAN'S MARCH 10 SPEECH
TO ISRAELI-AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN
TEL AVIV. DAYAN SAID THAT ISRAEL MUST SECURE
A NUCLEAR OPTION SO THAT THE ARAB STATES WOULD KNOW THAT
IN CASE OF A SERIOUS THREAT TO ITS EXISTENCE ISRAEL WOULD
DESTROY THEM AS WELL. THIS IS THIRD TIME WITHIN LESS THAN
A MONTH THAT DAYAN PUBLICLY HAS URGED ISRAEL TO PUSH FOR
EXPLICIT NUCLEAR OPTION, HAVING MADE THE SAME POINT TO A
FRENCH PERIODICAL AND TO ANOTHER LOCAL AUDIENCE (TEL AVIV 11289).

6. IN RELATED DEVELOPMENT, MAARIV MARCH 15 CARRIES FRONT-PAGE
REPORT THAT CIA, IN BRIEFING AMERICAN SCIENTIFIC GROUP LAST
WEEK, SAID THAT ISRAEL HAS TEN TO TWENTY READY-FOR-USE
NUCLEAR WEAPONS.
TOON

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